



Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)
Child Care Subsidy Monthly Report

February 2026

The following report reflects information contained in the Child Care Data System (CCDS) administered by the DESE Office of Childhood. Unless otherwise noted, data consists of un-duplicated counts of children and families participating in the subsidy program for the identified month.
Database as of March 4, 2026.

SECTION 1: CHILD CARE HOUSEHOLD APPLICATIONS

*The status reflects the action that was taken during the month indicated.

	February	Change From Month Prior	Change From 2 Months Prior
Submitted	3,855	-10.1%	4.0%
Approved	2,812	-3.2%	7.7%
Rejected	1,192	2.4%	-14.9%
Pending 15 Days or Less	560		
More Than 15 Days	28		
Total Pending	588		

SECTION 2: NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS AND CHILDREN APPROVED FOR SUBSIDY

	February 2026	January 2026	December 2025	Change From Month Prior	Change From 2 Months Prior
Approved Households	Income	18,933	18,073	3.0%	7.9%
	Protective Services	4,132	3,962	3.7%	8.1%
	Total	23,065	22,035	3.1%	8.0%
Approved Children	Income	30,191	30,157	-1.8%	-1.6%
	Protective Services	6,998	6,962	-2.0%	-1.5%
	Total	37,189	37,119	-1.8%	-1.6%

SECTION 3: CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PAYMENTS

Children Served	Income	22,434	22,261	0.2%	0.9%
	Protective Services	4,937	4,818	0.1%	2.6%
	Total	27,359	27,069	0.1%	1.2%
Payments	\$27,558,380	\$27,962,514	\$25,665,681	-1.4%	7.4%
Average Payment Per Child	\$1,006	\$1,022	\$948	-1.6%	6.1%

SECTION 4: TRANSITIONAL CHILD CARE SUMMARY

	Level 1 (151-185% FPL)			Level 2 (186-215% FPL)			Level 3 (216-242% FPL)		
	February 2026	January 2026	December 2025	February 2026	January 2026	December 2025	February 2026	January 2026	December 2025
Approved Households	735	643	547	241	224	199	105	88	79
Children Served	1,145	1,083	995	337	336	334	140	126	117
Payments	\$977,935.27	\$944,841.84	\$808,484.60	\$299,160.84	\$308,434.53	\$260,085.09	\$117,589.75	\$105,258.81	\$93,338.72
Average Payment per Household	\$1,331	\$1,469	\$1,478	\$1,241	\$1,377	\$1,307	\$1,120	\$1,196	\$1,182
Average Child Expenditure	\$854	\$872	\$813	\$888	\$918	\$779	\$840	\$835	\$798

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SECTION 5: CHILDREN SERVED BY AGE

Children Served February 2026		Payments February 2026
Under Age 1	1,254	\$2,128,714
AGE 1	3,155	\$5,718,223
AGE 2	4,026	\$4,779,801
AGE 3	4,425	\$4,361,922
AGE 4	4,203	\$4,045,317
AGE 5	3,004	\$2,350,678
AGE 6	1,749	\$1,032,362
AGE 7	1,441	\$800,688
AGE 8	1,198	\$669,946
AGE 9	1,007	\$560,170
AGE 10	807	\$443,352
AGE 11	588	\$332,016
AGE 12	339	\$201,346
AGE 13	165	\$101,902
Age 14 and Over	37	\$31,944
Total	27,398	\$27,558,380

SECTION 6: APPLICATIONS BY STATUS AND REGION

*The status reflects the action that was taken during the month indicated.

February 2026

Applications Received		Applications Approved	Applications Rejected	Percent Rejected	Total Resolved	15 Days or Less	More Than 15 Days	Percent Over 15 Da..
Cape Girardeau	261	148	100	31.4%	248	49	2	3.9%
Columbia	141	73	58	34.9%	131	24	1	4.0%
Jefferson City	166	91	70	35.0%	161	29	4	12.1%
Macon	58	32	33	43.4%	65	9	2	18.2%
Not Selected	1,558	1,389	206	10.9%	1,595	213	13	5.8%
Raytown	522	337	224	33.5%	561	70	4	5.4%
Springfield	290	190	133	36.6%	323	29	1	3.3%
St. Louis	859	552	368	33.0%	920	137	1	0.7%
Total	3,855	2,812	1,192	24.8%	4,004	560	28	4.8%

SECTION 7: REASON FOR CARE FOR APPROVED HOUSEHOLDS BY REGION

February 2026

Region	Education	Employment	Homeless	Incapacitated Parent	Job Search	Protective Services	Special Need	Training	Grand Total
Cape Girardeau	201	1,737	55	10	385	696	25	16	2,779
Columbia	109	935	56	8	245	312	24	24	1,455
Jefferson City	108	1,014	35	10	259	456	17	11	1,705
Macon	49	412	10	3	86	197	13	3	694
Not Selected	1,131	7,355	267	53	1,958	2,160	129	193	10,382
Raytown	555	3,110	336	27	1,203	867	69	132	5,241
Springfield	237	1,742	71	12	440	725	39	17	2,868
St. Louis	1,036	6,108	518	72	1,976	1,016	140	160	9,089
Total	2,284	14,976	1,082	143	4,577	4,297	327	361	23,785

SECTION 8: REASON FOR CARE FOR APPROVED HOUSEHOLDS AND CHILDREN

	Households			Children		
	February 2026	January 2026	December 2025	February 2026	January 2026	December 2025
Education	2,284	2,188	2,103	3,661	3,760	3,768
Employment	14,976	14,477	13,804	25,690	26,125	26,139
Homeless	1,082	1,062	1,030	1,357	1,425	1,455
Incapacitated Parent	143	137	125	237	239	216
Job Search	4,577	4,500	4,312	4,539	4,638	4,554
Protective Services	4,297	4,144	3,971	0	0	0
Special Need	327	314	294	6,880	7,025	6,989
Training	361	356	353	517	522	515
Total	23,785	23,061	22,032	579	607	633
				36,488	37,149	37,082

SECTION 9: DEMOGRAPHICS OF APPROVED CHILDREN BY RACE

	February 2026	January 2026	December 2025
African American (Black)	17,251	17,517	17,521
American/Alaskan Native	295	306	303
Asian	119	120	120
Caucasian (White)	13,640	13,872	13,819
Multi-Racial	3,943	4,061	4,035
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	51	54	55
Other	539	555	555
Prefer not to answer	683	687	692
Unknown	0	0	0
Total	36,488	37,149	37,082

SECTION 10: DEMOGRAPHICS OF APPROVED CHILDREN BY ETHNICITY

	February 2026	January 2026	December 2025
Hispanic	5.8%	5.9%	5.9%
Non-Hispanic	91.1%	91.1%	90.9%
Prefer not to answer	3.1%	3.1%	3.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%



SECTION 11: DEMOGRAPHICS OF APPROVED HOUSEHOLDS BY INCOME

February 2026

*excludes Protective Services households

Household Size	Approved Households	% of Total Households Last Month along Table (Down)	Average Household Monthly Income
0	0	0.0%	\$2,449
1	250	1.1%	\$54
2	7,505	31.6%	\$984
3	7,853	33.0%	\$1,239
4	5,513	23.2%	\$1,395
5	3,076	12.9%	\$1,468
6	1,428	6.0%	\$1,385
7 or More	1,039	4.4%	\$1,297
Total	23,785	100.0%	\$1,116

SECTION 12: CHILDREN SERVED AND AVERAGE PAYMENT PER CHILD BY FACILITY

Provider Type	Provider Facility Type	February 2026			January 2026			December 2025		
		Children Served	Payments	Average Payments per Child	Children Served	Payments	Average Payments per Child	Children Served	Payments	Average Payments per Child
Exempt	Exempt Program	696	\$386,681.40	\$556	665	\$327,439.11	\$492	620	\$303,426.07	\$489
	Six or Fewer	1,164	\$728,661.97	\$626	1,206	\$777,442.00	\$645	1,183	\$760,335.68	\$643
License Exempt	Religious Organization/ Nursery School	1,779	\$1,315,438.70	\$739	1,663	\$1,233,527.38	\$742	1,695	\$1,219,489.73	\$719
Licensed	Licensed Child Care Center	22,488	\$23,957,170.18	\$1,065	22,505	\$24,387,443.68	\$1,084	22,289	\$22,286,524.28	\$1,000
	Licensed Family Child Care Home	919	\$800,722.55	\$871	971	\$889,046.98	\$916	917	\$754,488.20	\$823
	Licensed Group Child Care Home	488	\$369,705.24	\$758	471	\$345,995.75	\$735	464	\$339,958.45	\$733
Total		27,398	\$27,558,380.04	\$1,006	27,357	\$27,960,894.90	\$1,022	27,067	\$25,664,222.41	\$948

SECTION 13: PAID AND CONTRACTED PROVIDERS

*Includes contracted providers and providers in the process of renewing their contract.

Contracted Providers	Exempt	Exempt Program	184	184	185
		Six or Fewer	379	382	377
	Licensed	Licensed Child Care Center	1,207	1,200	1,196
		Licensed Family Child Care Home	181	181	178
		Licensed Group Child Care Home	56	56	57
	Licensed Exempt	Religious Organization/Nursery School	105	103	102
Total			2,112	2,106	2,095

SECTION 14: CHILDREN RECEIVING OTHER STATE ASSISTANCE

	February 2026	January 2026	December 2025	Change From Month Prior	Change From 2 Months Prior
Energy Assistance Program (LiHEAP)	2,473	2,450	2,436	0.9%	1.5%
Low Income Housing	2,276	2,319	2,325	-1.9%	-2.1%
Medicaid	17,274	17,160	16,951	0.7%	1.9%
Food Stamps (SNAP)	16,408	16,442	16,404	-0.2%	0.0%
Temporary Assistance (TANF)	717	727	757	-1.4%	-5.3%
Total	20,237	20,208	20,042	0.1%	1.0%